

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Masahiro KOYAMA et al.  
Serial No.: Rule 53(b) Continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/398,776  
Filed: March 31, 2004  
For: DECENTRALIZED CONTROL SYSTEM FOR NETWORK  
CONNECTION  
Group: Not yet assigned  
Examiner: Not yet assigned

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 31, 2004

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 and 37 CFR §1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 11-062717, filed in Japan on March 10, 1999.

A certified copy of the above-referred-to Japanese Patent Application was filed on September 20, 1999 in prior application Serial No. 09/398,776, filed September 20, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



---

Frederick D. Bailey  
Registration No. 42,282

FDB/sdb  
(703) 312-6600